

18/PRT

**DESCRIPTION**PRODUCTION APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR METAL TUBE HAVINGOVAL CROSS SECTION

12-27-06 51 This application is a 35 USC 371 of PCT/JP03/09419, Filed 7/25/2003.

**TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a metal tube having an oval cross section, and a production apparatus and method for such a metal tube.

**10 BACKGROUND ART**

A conventional aluminum tube having an integral outlet mouth is produced by an impact extruding method (impact press). In this method, a disk-shaped aluminum slug punched out of a rolled aluminum plate (having a purity of 99.7% or higher) is used as a material. The slug is put in a die, and pressed by moving a punch toward the die thereby to be instantaneously extruded through a gap defined between the punch and the die owing to its ductility. Thus, the tube is formed. The aluminum tube has the following advantages:

- (1) The aluminum tube is excellent in flavor maintaining property and suitable for long-term preservation of contents in the tube, because it is impervious to air and light.
- (2) After the contents are squeezed out of the tube, the contents are not sucked back into the tube (with no back flow of air), so that the remaining contents are less likely to contact the air. Therefore, the aluminum tube ensures that the contents maintain a highly stable quality.
- (3) The aluminum tube has no seam, so that print can be provided over the